

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1728

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG IMMEDIATE

USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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USINFO FOR VOA/PN, PGM/RC, PGM/PPE, EU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR, CY, COE

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS REPORTS GREEK AND TURKISH FONMINS MEET IN STRASBOURG, KARASEK REPORT APPROVED

1. SUMMARY: TURKISH PRESS APRIL 28 WIDELY REPORTS ON COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETINGS AND BRIEF MEETING BETWEEN GREEK FONMIN PAPALIGOURAS AND TURKISH FONMIN OKCUN AT STRASBOURG APRIL 27.

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MILLIYET HIGHLIGHTS TURKISH ELATION FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF KARASEK REPORT ON CYPRUS, WHICH ALLEGEDLY RECOMMENDS RECONVENING INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. END SUMMARY.

2. APRIL 28 PRESS PROMINENTLY REPORTS MEETING OF TURKISH AND GREEK FONMINS IN STRASBOURG ON APRIL 27. GREEK AND TURKISH OFFICIALS ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE MEETING "DID NOT GO

BEYOND GETTING ACQUAINTED." AFTER THE 15-MINUTE SESSION, GREEK FONMIN PAPALIGOURAS REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS, "WE BRIEFLY REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS WITH OUR TURKISH COLLEAGUES." FONMIN OKCUN MADE NO STATEMENT.

3. THE PRESS ALSO NOTES THE APPROVAL OF AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN FRANZ KARASEK'S REPORT ON CYPRUS. IN HIS STORY FROM STRASBOURG, MILLIYET CORRESPONDENT MEHMET ALI BIRAN SAYS ALL AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY GREEK PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE REJECTED AND SOME OBSERVERS CHARACTERIZED APPROVAL OF THE REPORT AS "THE GREATEST DEFEAT FOR GREECE IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE." THE MILLIYET ARTICLE ALSO CARRIES A STATEMENT FROM KARASEK IN WHICH HE EXPRESSES SATISFACTION AT THE OUT-COME OF THE VOTE AND HOPE THAT THE CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES WILL BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY. KARASEK ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID HE BELIEVES THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS ARE SUFFICIENT TO BEGIN TALKS AND HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE GREEK SIDE TO SIT AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

4. FOLLOWING THE VOTE IN THE COE, FONMIN OKCUN ISSUED A STATEMENT CARRIED IN MOST APRIL 28 PRESS ACCOUNTS. THE STATEMENT SAYS, "THE KARASEK REPORT AND DRAFT RESOLUTION WERE APPROVED BY A WIDE MARGIN IN SPITE OF GREEK PARLIAMENTARIANS' VOTES AGAINST THEM IN THE COE. THIS DECISION SHOWS EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION BELIEVES A FINAL SOLUTION ON CYPRUS CAN BE FOUND THROUGH THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ROLE PLAYED BY THE CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVES OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS IN THE REALIZATION OF THIS RESULT IS CLEAR. MORE-OVER, THIS RESULT SHOWS THAT EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION HAS GREETED FAVORABLY THE ECEVIT/KARAMANLIS DIALOGUE WHICH BEGAN IN MONTREUX."

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